

**GOUCHER  
COLLEGE**

**POLL**

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***Goucher College Poll results: Majority of Marylanders view the Affordable Care Act favorably and support Medicare-for-all; More than half of residents unsatisfied with state of American democracy; President Trump unpopular among Marylanders***

BALTIMORE (September 24, 2019)—The Goucher College Poll asked Maryland residents about their views toward President Donald Trump’s job performance; former President Barack Obama; the Democratic and Republican Parties; the Affordable Care Act; capitalism and socialism; climate change; and Medicare-for-all. The Goucher College Poll also asked residents about America’s openness to people from all over the world and their satisfaction with American democracy. The Goucher College Poll surveyed **763** Maryland adults from **September 13-18** and has a margin of error of **+/-3.6 percent**.

**President Donald Trump and the 2020 general election in Maryland**

**Twenty-seven percent** of Marylanders approve of the job Trump is doing as president of the United States; **67 percent** disapprove.

Maryland registered voters who indicated they were paying attention to the campaign for president were asked whether they plan to vote if the presidential election were held today.

- **28 percent** say they will definitely or probably vote for the Republican candidate, Trump.
- **65 percent** say they will definitely or probably vote for the Democratic candidate.

### **Former President Barack Obama and other key political items**

Obama remains a popular political figure in Maryland; **73 percent** view him favorably and **22 percent** view him unfavorably. **Eighty-nine percent** of Maryland Democrats hold a favorable opinion of Obama. Obama earned a **66 percent** approval rating from Marylanders on the September 2016 Goucher College Poll.<sup>1</sup>

**Sixty-three percent** hold a favorable view of the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare; **29 percent** hold an unfavorable view.

Marylanders were more divided in their views toward the two major political parties and different economic systems:

- **47 percent** held a favorable view toward the Democratic Party; **39 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **33 percent** held a favorable view toward the Republican Party; **56 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **31 percent** held a favorable view toward socialism; **47 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **53 percent** held a favorable view toward capitalism; **31 percent** held an unfavorable view.

### **Climate change and personal impact on the environment**

**Sixty-nine percent** of Marylanders believe climate change is caused mostly by human activity, while **23 percent** think it is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth's environment. These attitudes fell starkly along partisan lines; **76 percent** of Democrats believe that climate change is caused mostly by human activity, compared to **44 percent** of Republicans. Just **one percent** of Marylanders do not believe climate change exists.

There is widespread agreement concerning the impact that individual lifestyle choices—like recycling or reducing household energy consumption—can have on the overall environment. **Ninety-two percent** agree that their choices make a difference; **6 percent** disagree that they do.

### **Views toward Medicare-for-all**

Respondents were randomly selected to receive one of two questions about Medicare-for-all.

- **59 percent** support a “Medicare for all” health care system, where all Americans would get their health insurance from the government; **33 percent** oppose.
- **52 percent** support a “Medicare for all” health care system, where all Americans would get their health insurance from the government, replacing private insurance plans; **40 percent** oppose.

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<sup>1</sup> For full results, see: <https://www.goucher.edu/hughes-center/documents/Fall-2016-Goucher-Poll-Release-2-Final.pdf>

### **Views toward American society and democracy**

Respondents were asked to consider the impact of America's openness to people from all over the world.

- **71 percent** think openness is essential to who we are as a nation.
- **24 percent** think if we are too open we risk losing our identity as a nation.

Compared to data collected by Pew Research Center in July 2019, Marylanders are more likely than all Americans (**62 percent**) to say that openness to people from all over the world is essential to who we are as a nation.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of Marylanders (**56 percent**) are unsatisfied with the current state of American democracy; **36 percent** are satisfied. Democrats (**64 percent**) express more dissatisfaction than their Republican counterparts (**37 percent**).

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<sup>2</sup> For full results from Pew Research Center, see: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/07/17/growing-share-of-republicans-say-u-s-risks-losing-its-identity-if-it-is-too-open-to-foreigners/>

## About the Goucher College Poll

The Goucher College Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. The center is directed by Dr. Mileah Kromer, associate professor of political science.

The Goucher College Poll is fully funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources. The mission of the Goucher College Poll is to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, unbiased, and independent information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the poll are used to support faculty and student research.

The Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.

For more information, or to view archived polls, please visit [www.goucher.edu/poll](http://www.goucher.edu/poll).



## Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a county-level stratified random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is purchased from Dynata (<https://www.dynata.com/>).

The survey was conducted **Friday, September 13, to Wednesday, September 18**. During this time, interviews were conducted 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday to Friday and noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The Goucher College Poll uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software to administer its surveys. Interviews are conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid, student interviewers.

Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Only Maryland adults—residents aged 18 years or older—were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted with adults who were reached at business or work numbers. **Eighty percent** of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone and **20 percent** were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with **763** Maryland adults. For a sample size of **763**, there is a **95 percent** probability the survey results have a plus or minus **3.6 percentage** point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

In addition to sampling error, all surveys are subject to sources of non-sampling error, including question wording effects, question order effects, and non-response bias. Margin of error is not adjusted for design effects. Data is weighted by gender, age, race, region, and educational attainment of the state to represent adult population targets established by the most recent American Community Survey (ACS).

### **Survey Question Design**

The Goucher College Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which they are administered to respondents.

**BRACKETED ITEMS [ ]:** Items and statements in brackets are rotated to ensure respondents do not receive a set order of response options, which maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent agreement based on question composition.

Example: [agree or disagree] or [disagree or agree]

**PROBE (p):** Some questions contain a “probe” maneuver to determine a respondent’s intensity of opinion/perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking respondents if their responses are more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of President Obama?

**PROBE:** Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?

**OPEN-ENDED:** No response options are provided for an open-ended question, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information. Any response options provided to the interviewer are not read to the respondent; they are only used to help reduce interviewer error and time in coding the response.

**VOLUNTEER (v):** Volunteer responses means the interviewer did not offer that response option in the question as read to the interviewer. Interviewers are instructed not to offer “don’t know” or “refused” or “some other opinion” to the respondent, but the respondent is free to volunteer that information for the interviewer to record.

**Goucher College Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)**

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Adults</i> (n=763)	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Registered Voters</i> (n=655)
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	47	47	46
Female	53	53	54
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 24	12	12	9
25 to 34	18	18	17
35 to 44	16	16	16
45 to 54	18	18	19
55 to 64	17	17	19
65+	19	19	20
<b>Race</b>			
White	61	61	63
Black	30	30	30
All other	9	9	7
<b>Education</b>			
High school or less	35	35	31
Tech/AA/some college	26	26	28
Four-year college degree	21	21	22
Adv./professional degree	18	18	19
<b>Region</b>			
Montgomery County	17	17	17
Prince George's County	15	15	15
Baltimore City	11	11	11
Baltimore County	14	14	14
Central Region	21	21	22
Southern Region	6	6	6
Eastern Shore Region	8	8	8
Western Region	8	8	7

**Counties included in region:**

- Central: Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, and Howard
- Western: Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington
- Eastern Shore: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Southern: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's

**Registered Voters**

Registered voter screen question:

**Q: REGVOTE**

Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If "**Yes**," follow up: Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, unaffiliated, or something else?

Of the **763** Maryland adult residents surveyed, **655** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e., independent).

**Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)**

	Party Registration (Aug 2019)	Weighted Sample Estimate <b>Registered Voters (n=655)</b>
Democratic Party	54	53
Republican Party	25	26
Unaffiliated (Independent)	19	19
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	1	2
Total=	Voters in MD 4,018,568	655 +/-3.8

Information on voter registration in Maryland from the Board of Elections can be found at <http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

**Q: IDEO**

Do you consider yourself to be politically [conservative, moderate, or progressive]?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Conservative	23	23
Moderate	48	49
Progressive	24	25
Don't know (v)	5	4
Total=	763 +/-3.6	655 +/-3.8



The following questions were asked to the full sample of **763 Maryland adults**. Please refer to **page 16** for the results by registered voter and other key demographics. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

**Q: TRUMPJOB**

Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

**PROBE**

	<b>FEB 17</b>	<b>SEPT 17</b>	<b>FEB 18</b>	<b>SEPT 18</b>	<b>FEB 19</b>	<b>SEPT 19</b>
Strongly disapprove (p)	56	56	57	61	50	54
Disapprove	8	15	11	10	16	13
Approve	14	13	15	13	16	11
Strongly approve (p)	15	12	12	10	14	16
Don't know (v)	7	3	4	4	3	4
Refused (v)	>1	1	1	2	1	2
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	831 +/-3.4	808 +/-3.4	763 +/-3.6

**Q: GROUPS**

Next, I'm going to read you the names of several individuals, items, and groups.  
Please tell me whether you have a generally [**favorable or unfavorable**] opinion of each one.

**PROBE**

[items rotated]

**Q: OBAMA**

**Q: DEMPARTY**

**Q: REPPARTY**

**Q: SOCIALISM**

**Q: CAPITALISM**

**Q: OBAMACARE**

	<b>Very Unfav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Very Fav</b>	<b>DK/REF (v)</b>
Barack Obama	10	12	33	40	6
The Democratic Party	17	22	35	12	13
The Republican Party	25	31	24	9	11
Socialism	24	23	28	3	21
Capitalism	9	22	38	15	17
The Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare	16	13	37	26	6

**Total = 763, +/-3.6**

**Q: CLIMATE**

Changing topics to the environment, I'm going to read you three statements about climate change. Please tell me which one comes closest to your view:

**[statements rotated]**

#1 Climate change is caused mostly by human activity.

#2 Climate change is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth's environment.

#3 Climate change does not exist.

	<b>OCT 14</b>	<b>SEPT 17</b>	<b>SEPT 19</b>
Statement #1 (human activity)	59	59	69
Statement #2 (natural patterns)	31	35	23
Statement #3 (does not exist)	4	2	1
Some other opinion (v)	4	4	5
Don't know/Refused (v)	2	>1	2
Total=	708 +/-3.7	671 +/-3.8	763 +/-3.6

**Q: PERSONAL**

Do you **[agree or disagree]** that individual lifestyle choices—things like recycling or reducing household energy use—make a difference in the overall health of the environment?

**PROBE**

	<b>SEPT 19</b>
Strongly disagree (p)	2
Disagree	4
Agree	35
Strongly agree (p)	57
Don't know (v)	2
Refused (v)	>1
Total=	763 +/-3.6

# **RANDOMIZED SURVEY EXPERIMENT**

- ½ of respondents receive **MED1**
- ½ of respondents receive **MED2**

## **Q: MED1**

Do you [**support or oppose**] a “Medicare for All” health care system, where all Americans would get their health insurance from the government?

**PROBE**

## **Q: MED2**

Do you [**support or oppose**] a “Medicare for All” health care system, where all Americans would get their health insurance from the government, **replacing private insurance plans**?

**PROBE**

**MEDALL combines the responses from MED1 and MED2**

	<b>MED1</b>	<b>MED2</b>	<b>MEDALL</b>
Strongly oppose (p)	18	27	22
Oppose	15	13	14
Support	27	19	23
Strongly support (p)	32	33	32
Don’t know (v)	8	7	8
Refused (v)	1	1	1
Total=	391 +/-4.9	372 +/-5.0	763 +/-3.6

**Q: OPEN**

Now I'm going to read you two statements about America. Please tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right.

**[statements rotated]**

#1 America's openness to people from all over the world is essential to who we are as a nation.

#2 If America is too open to people from all over the world, we risk losing our identity as a nation.

	SEPT 19
Statement #1 (openness essential)	71
Statement #2 (too open a risk)	24
Some other opinion (v)	2
Don't know (v)	2
Refused (v)	1
Total=	763 +/-3.6

**Q: DEMOCRACY**

Are you generally **[satisfied or unsatisfied]** with the way democracy is working in America?

**PROBE**

	SEPT 19
Very unsatisfied (p)	28
Unsatisfied	28
Satisfied	31
Very satisfied (p)	5
Don't know (v)	7
Refused (v)	2
Total=	763 +/-3.6

**SCREEN**

**ATTENTION** was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- **Registered to vote (REGVOTE)**

**Q: ATTENTION**

How much attention have you been paying to the election campaign for president: [**a lot, some, a little, or none at all**]?

	<b>SEPT 19</b>
None at all	16
A little	22
Some	26
A lot	35
Don't know/Refused (v)	1
Total=	655 +/-3.8

# **SCREEN**

**GENBALLOT** was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- **Registered to vote (REGVOTE)**
- **Paying a little, some, or a lot of attention to the campaign for president (ATTENTION)**

## **Q: GENBALLOT**

If the 2020 presidential election were held today, would you:

**[statements rotated]**

	<b>SEPT 19</b>
Definitely vote to re-elect the Republican candidate Donald Trump	22
Probably vote to re-elect the Republican candidate Donald Trump	6
Probably vote for the Democratic candidate	13
Definitely vote for the Democratic candidate	52
Neither of these; will vote other/third party (v)	2
Don't know (v)	4
Refused (v)	1
Total=	548 +/-4.2

**Results by Demographics (in percent)**

- Column percentages
- Unless specified, “don’t know,” “refused,” and other volunteered responses are not included below
- Margin of error is higher for subsamples
- Refer to tables above for questions as worded

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=655)	Dem (n=347)	Ind (n=125)	Rep (n=172)	Male (n=359)	Female (n=404)	18-34 (n=232)	35-54 (n=262)	55+ (n=269)	White (n=465)	Black (n=228)	Other (n=70)
Q: TRUMPJOB												
Disapprove	66	90	67	19	58	74	74	69	59	55	88	73
Approve	29	8	24	73	35	21	16	27	38	40	5	20
Q: OBAMA												
Unfavorable	22	7	15	56	26	17	16	20	28	31	6	13
Favorable	73	89	78	36	66	79	77	73	69	63	89	81
Q: DEMPARTY												
Unfavorable	39	17	39	85	48	31	36	38	43	50	21	28
Favorable	51	75	45	8	40	55	42	53	48	39	67	49
Q: REPPARTY												
Unfavorable	58	76	64	19	52	60	54	56	57	51	69	50
Favorable	33	14	23	77	39	27	28	36	33	40	19	31
Q: SOCIALISM												
Unfavorable	50	35	46	81	58	38	35	53	53	56	32	41
Favorable	30	41	32	8	26	36	38	33	24	28	38	33
Q: CAPITALISM												
Unfavorable	29	34	29	20	25	34	44	28	20	25	40	35
Favorable	54	45	58	67	63	44	39	58	60	61	37	54



	Maryland Adults							
	College		Region			Ideology		
	Less than 4-year degree (n=466)	4-year degree or more (n=297)	MG/ PG (n=245)	Central/ Balt Metro (n=350)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=168)	Cons (n=175)	Mod (n=367)	Prog (n=185)
<b>Q: TRUMPJOB</b>								
Disapprove	62	74	82	63	51	33	71	91
Approve	33	19	14	30	42	60	24	7
<b>Q: OBAMA</b>								
Unfavorable	26	16	11	25	31	47	18	7
Favorable	68	80	86	68	64	47	76	92
<b>Q: DEMPARTY</b>								
Unfavorable	45	30	30	42	47	67	37	18
Favorable	41	59	57	47	37	24	47	75
<b>Q: REPPARTY</b>								
Unfavorable	48	69	74	52	38	24	57	81
Favorable	39	23	15	38	47	66	30	11
<b>Q: SOCIALISM</b>								
Unfavorable	47	48	40	50	54	69	51	22
Favorable	31	33	37	30	26	17	29	51
<b>Q: CAPITALISM</b>								
Unfavorable	34	24	29	33	26	22	31	36
Favorable	47	62	57	51	51	68	53	45

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=655)	Dem (n=347)	Ind (n=125)	Rep (n=172)	Male (n=359)	Female (n=404)	18-34 (n=232)	35-54 (n=262)	55+ (n=269)	White (n=465)	Black (n=228)	Other (n=70)
Q: OBAMACARE												
Unfavorable	31	13	32	66	36	24	24	31	34	40	12	19
Favorable	62	81	62	25	56	70	70	63	60	53	81	75
Q: CLIMATE												
Statement #1 (human activity)	66	76	70	44	66	71	82	69	58	66	70	82
Statement #2 (natural patterns)	25	18	20	42	24	23	12	23	33	24	24	15
Statement #3 (does not exist)	2	1	0	4	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	2
Q: PERSONAL												
Disagree	6	6	5	8	7	4	4	5	8	6	4	6
Agree	92	91	94	91	92	93	96	92	89	91	94	93
Q: MEDALL												
Oppose	39	27	34	66	40	33	22	33	53	46	20	26
Support	52	65	57	22	53	57	71	57	41	46	70	71
Q: OPEN												
Statement #1 (essential)	73	87	78	42	67	76	73	78	64	65	83	77
Statement #2 (risk)	22	10	18	49	29	20	23	20	28	30	13	17
Q: DEMOCRACY												
Unsatisfied	55	64	59	37	50	61	55	58	53	52	63	57
Satisfied	37	29	32	54	42	30	31	36	40	39	27	39

	Maryland Adults							
	College		Region			Ideology		
	Less than 4-year degree (n=466)	4-year degree or more (n=297)	MG/ PG (n=245)	Central/ Balt Metro (n=350)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=168)	Cons (n=175)	Mod (n=367)	Prog (n=185)
<b>Q: OBAMACARE</b>								
Unfavorable	33	24	18	32	42	56	27	11
Favorable	58	72	79	60	48	36	66	84
<b>Q: CLIMATE</b>								
Statement #1 (human activity)	63	77	79	66	61	41	72	88
Statement #2 (natural patterns)	28	16	14	26	31	48	22	7
Statement #3 (does not exist)	2	1	0	2	2	3	1	2
<b>Q: PERSONAL</b>								
Disagree	6	5	4	6	8	6	5	4
Agree	91	93	96	92	88	91	93	95
<b>Q: Q: MEDALL</b>								
Oppose	35	39	29	35	51	57	40	13
Support	56	53	65	54	42	36	52	79
<b>Q: OPEN</b>								
Statement #1 (essential)	67	78	83	71	54	48	75	87
Statement #2 (risk)	28	18	12	25	39	46	20	11
<b>Q: DEMOCRACY</b>								
Unsatisfied	53	59	61	56	45	39	58	67
Satisfied	37	34	34	33	43	47	37	24

**ATTENTION** was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- Registered to vote (REGVOTE)

	Registered Voters											
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Black	Other
	(n=655)	(n=347)	(n=125)	(n=171)	(n=299)	(n=356)	(n=172)	(n=229)	(n=254)	(n=411)	(n=169)	(n=48)
Q: ATTENTION												
None/Little	38	33	44	42	36	40	54	34	32	37	41	38
Some/A lot	62	66	56	59	64	60	46	66	68	63	59	63

	Registered Voters							
	College		Region			Ideology		
	Less than 4-year degree (n=384)	4-year degree or more (n=271)	MG/ PG (n=214)	Central/ Balt Metro (n=304)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=138)	Cons (n=151)	Mod (n=317)	Prog (n=163)
<b>Q: ATTENTION</b>								
None/Little	47	26	31	38	51	36	43	29
Some/A lot	53	74	69	62	49	64	57	71

**GENBALLOT** was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- Registered to vote (REGVOTE)
- Paying a little, some, or a lot of attention to the campaign for president (ATTENTION)

	Registered Voters											
	Party				Gender		Age			Race		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Black	Other
	(n=548)	(n=299)	(n=103)	(n=144)	(n=262)	(n=286)	(n=132)	(n=189)	(n=227)	(n=346)	(n=160)	(n=42)
Q: GENBALLOT												
Def/prob vote for Donald Trump	28	6	20	80	36	21	17	32	32	40	8	17
Def/prob vote for Dem candidate	65	87	70	15	56	73	74	64	61	56	81	81

	Registered Voters							
	College		Region			Ideology		
	Less than 4-year degree (n=297)	4-year degree or more (n=251)	MG/ PG (n=185)	Central/ Balt Metro (n=254)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=109)	Cons (n=132)	Mod (n=250)	Prog (n=152)
<b>Q: GENBALLOT</b>								
Def/prob vote for Donald Trump	35	21	12	33	46	67	24	5
Def/prob vote for Dem candidate	56	75	82	60	48	27	69	91